

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01959 111545Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SEC-01 OPIC-03 H-01 SCS-03 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0514

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, PO

SUBJ: AMERICAN INVESTMENT PROBLEMS - MUELLER-MONTAGEM

REF: (A) LISBON 1694, (B) 75 LISBON 1925 (C) LISBON A-70

1. ON MARCH 10 LAWYER FOR MUELLER-MONTAGEM INFORMED EMBOFF THAT PORTUGUESE COURT HAD RULED IN FAVOR OF MUELLER AND HAD DROPPED ALL CHARGES OF MALPRACTICE BROUGHT AGAINST HIM BY THE WORKERS. BANKRUPTCY ORDER FOR MUELLER-MONTAGEM REPORTEDLY WITHDRAWN AND MUELLER CAN LEGALLY RESUME CONTROL OF THE FIRM. LAWYER SAID WORKERS COMMISSION AT THE FIRM HAS LEGAL RIGHT TO APPEAL AND MAY DO SO NEXT WEEK.

2. LAWYER NOW PLANS PURSUE FIRM'S CLAIMS FOR INDEMNIFICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES FOR MACHINERY RENTAL TO THIRD PARTIES. HE PROMISED KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH EMBASSY REGARDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

3. COMMENT: COURT DECISION COULD SET MAJOR PRECEDENT INDUCING OTHER OWNERS TO INSTITUTE LEGAL PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THEIR FIRMS. EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT THERE MAY BE 200 SUCH CASES. EVEN IF COURT DECISION
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DOES NOT LEAD TO MUELLER'S IMMEDIATE REACQUISITION OF HIS COMPANY, IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY AFFECT GOP ATTITUDES AND DECISIONS REGARDING FIRMS UNDER WORKER CONTROL.
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Message Attributes

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